

EPI Update for Friday, February 16, 2018
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)
Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **Consumer advisory issued for chicken salad purchased at Fareway**
- **First influenza vaccine estimates released**
- **Pet food safety**
- **In the news: You don't want to know what was in Abby Beckley's eye**
- **Infographic: Pet food safety**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

Consumer advisory issued for chicken salad purchased at Fareway

IDPH and the Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals (DIA) have issued a consumer advisory for chicken salad sold at Fareway stores. The chicken salad, which is produced and packaged by a third party for Fareway, is implicated in multiple cases of *Salmonella* illness across Iowa. Preliminary testing by the State Hygienic Laboratory (SHL) indicate the presence of salmonella in this product.

Fareway voluntarily stopped the sale of the product and pulled the chicken salad from its shelves after being contacted by DIA. No chicken salad has been sold to the consuming public since last Friday evening (2/9/18). Consumers who have purchased chicken salad from Fareway should throw it out and not return the product to the store.

To view the full consumer advisory, visit

idph.iowa.gov/News/ArtMID/646/ArticleID/158205/Consumer-Advisory-Issued-for-Chicken-Salad-Purchased-at-Fareway-21318

For additional information and for case counties, visit

<https://idph.iowa.gov/ehi/Salmonella-Fareway-Chicken-Salad>

First influenza vaccine estimates released

CDC has released interim estimates for 2017-18 seasonal influenza vaccine effectiveness (VE) in the U.S. The overall adjusted VE against illness caused by influenza A and B virus was estimated to be 36 percent. VE was estimated to be 25 percent against influenza A(H3N2) virus, 67 percent against A(H1N1)pdm09 viruses, and 42 percent against influenza B viruses. Children aged 6 months to 8 years had considerably higher VE estimates, with 59 percent VE against influenza A and B overall and 51 percent VE against influenza A(H3N2).

These estimates reinforce the need for ongoing influenza prevention and treatment. IDPH still recommends influenza vaccination for those who have not yet been vaccinated this season because influenza will likely continue to circulate for several more weeks. Vaccination remains an important way to prevent illness, hospitalization and death due to influenza.

For more information on the effectiveness of this season's influenza vaccine, visit www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/67/wr/mm6706a2.htm?s_cid=mm6706a2_w.

Pet food safety

Food safety is important for both human foods and pet foods. Similar to handling raw hamburger or chicken, improper handling of raw pet foods can pose a health risk. These foods have sometimes been found to contain bacteria like *Salmonella*, which can cause illness in both humans and animals. Recent salmonellosis cases in Minnesota linked to raw pet food highlight the importance of proper pet food safety practices. Contaminated pet food is a hazard to both humans and animals because many bacteria are readily transmittable between humans and pets.

When handling pet food – raw, dry or canned – it is important to:

- Wash your hands immediately after handling the food
- follow storage instructions as printed on the package
- use a clean scoop to transfer the food from the container to the bowl.

While not all pets will get sick after eating contaminated food, they could still be a healthy carrier of harmful bacteria. For this reason, be sure to:

- safely play with pets after they consume raw food
- avoid letting pets lick your face or any open wounds you may have
- wash your hands after handling feces or cleaning up other bodily fluids from your pet

For more information on pet food safety, visit www.cdc.gov/healthypets/publications/pet-food-safety.html.

In the news: You don't want to know what was in Abby Beckley's eye

www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2018/02/13/584490122/you-don-t-want-to-know-what-was-in-abby-beckley-s-eye

Infographic: Pet food safety



To view in full size, visit www.cdc.gov/healthypets/resources/pet-food-tips.pdf.

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

None

Have a healthy and happy week!

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